BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2024

WE ARE PRIDE

BOOKLIST FOR ADULTS, TEENS, & CHILDREN

PLEASE JOIN US IN A MOMENT OF SILENCE

WE REMEMBER

TRANS AND GENDER EXPANSIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS
NO LONGER WITH US

BPL.ORG

WE ARE PRIDE is a list of books published in the previous year about the diverse experience of the LGBTQ+ community, and contains book recommendations for all ages. This printing is part of the Boston Public Library's annual observance of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, which has included these booklists since 2017.

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Cover Photograph
by Michael Dwyer, AP

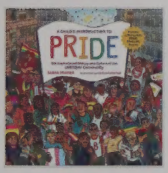
CHILDREN

Buzzing

By Samuel Sattin & Illustrated by Rye Hickman

As a twelve-year-old with OCD, Isaac can't escape the negative thoughts that swarm his brain. Isaac's mom thinks he should ground himself in reality, but when he befriends a group of fantasy enthusiasts, he finds that imagination can do a world of good.

J GRAPHIC BUZZING



A Child's Introduction to Pride: The Inspirational History and Culture of the LGBTQIA+ Community

By Sarah Prager & Illustrated by Caitlin O'Dwyer

The history of the LGBTQIA+ community is filled with heroes, struggles, triumph, and joy. This book introduces kids to the history, groundbreaking events, and inspirational people of the LGBTQIA+ community.

J HQ73.2 .P73 2023

Cross My Heart and Never Lie

By Nora Dåsnes

In this diary-style graphic novel translated from Norwegian, seventh grader Tuva strives to stay true to herself through changing friendships and an unexpected first crush.

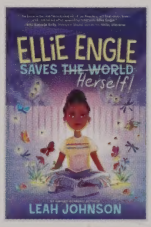
J GRAPHIC CROSS MY HEART

Door by Door: How Sarah McBride Became America's First Openly Transgender Senator

By Meeg Pincus & Illustrated by Meridth McKean Gimbel

A picture book biography about Sarah McBride, America's first openly transgender state senator. Even as a young child, Sarah knew two things: she knew she wanted to change the world and she knew who she was inside.

J BIOG F170.4 .M33 P56 2023



Ellie Engle Saves Herself

By Leah Johnson

As twelve-year-old Ellie Engle navigates seventh grade and her changing relationship with her best friend, a freak accident occurs that gives Ellie the ability to bring things back to life through touch.

J FICTION JOHNSON L

Flower Girl

By Amy Bloom & Illustrated by Jameela Wahlgren

In this picture book, Nicki's aunt asks her to be her flower girl, but Nicki doesn't feel like herself in any of the dresses her mom and aunt pick out. Nicki must find her voice — and her own style — to make her aunt's wedding perfect.

J PICTURE BLOOM A

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

The House That Whispers

By Lin Thompson

While spending a week at his grandma's old house, Simon starts to notice strange smells, spooky noises, and even a shadowy figure. Is it a haunting or all in his head?

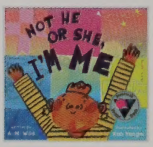
J FICTION THOMPSON L

Just Lizzie

By Karen Wilfrid

Eighth grader Lizzie feels lonely not sharing her peers' obsession with flirting and crushes. Learning about asexual reproduction in plants prompts Lizzie to look up whether people can also be asexual, and she learns that she's not alone at all.

J FICTION WILFRID K



Not He or She, I'm Me

By A. M. Wild & Illustrated by Kah Yangni

This lively picture book full of big affirmations follows a nonbinary child as they get ready, go to school, play with friends, and celebrate being themself all day long.

J PICTURE WILD A

The Song of Us

By Kate Fussner

Seventh graders Olivia and Eden think their meeting in Poetry Club is a sign that they should be together. But Eden isn't out, and when Olivia's jealousy strikes, their relationship fractures. Olivia devises a plan to win Eden back, but is it too late?

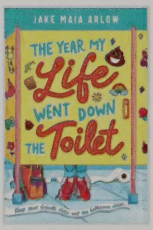
J FICTION FUSSNER K

Vivian Lantz's Second Chances

By Kathryn Ormsbee

Vivian hopes to break her streak of terrible first days of school, but the start of eighth grade is her worst yet. Then she gets stuck reliving it on repeat. How will her choices change with the power of second (and third and fourth) chances?

J FICTION ORMSBEE K



The Year My Life Went Down the Toilet

By Jake Maia Arlow

When Al is diagnosed with Crohn's disease, she thinks her days of middle school embarrassment will only get worse. Instead, she ends up befriending a group of kids who understand both her chronic illness and her queerness.

J FICTION ARLOW J

TEEN

The Borrow a Boyfriend Club

By Page Powars

To convince his classmates (and himself) that he's masculine, Noah attempts to join the Borrow a Boyfriend Club, an underground club that allows students to pay for a pretend boyfriend.

TEEN FICTION POWARS P

Fake Dates and Mooncakes

By Sher Lee

Dylan is determined to win a Mid-Autumn Festival mooncake-making competition. Will he be able to stay focused on his goal when charming rich boy Theo convinces Dylan to fake date him?

TEEN FICTION LEE S

Forget Me Not

By Alyson Derrick

Stevie and Nora had the perfect plan to escape their homophobic small town, but their future is thrown into question when a head injury causes Stevie to forget their entire relationship.

TEEN FICTION DERRICK A

How to Find a Missing Girl

By Victoria Wlosok

Iris hates that her ex-girlfriend, Heather, has a podcast about Iris's missing sister. But when Heather also goes missing, Iris will stop at nothing to find both girls and uncover the truth.

TEEN MYSTERY WLOSOK V

If I Can Give You That

By Michael Gray Bulla

At a support group for LGBTQ+ teens, Gael meets Declan, which leads him to a whole new group of queer friends as well as a potential romance. But can his new connections survive Gael's family drama?

TEEN FICTION BULLA M

Lose You to Find Me

By Erik J. Brown

In exchange for a letter of recommendation to culinary school, Tommy promises to train a new employee for his boss. He's shocked to discover that this new employee is his long lost first crush...who doesn't seem to remember Tommy.

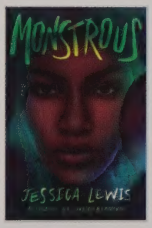
TEEN FICTION BROWN E

The Luis Ortega Survival Club

By Sonora Reyes

After being assaulted at a party, Ari discovers a group of girls who have been hurt by the same guy. As she joins their quest for revenge, she also finds friends who accept every part of her.

TEEN FICTION REYES S



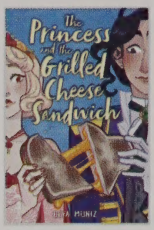
Monstrous

By Jessica Lewis

When Latavia moves in with her aunt for the summer, she is presented with a list of strict rules. She quickly discovers that something very sinister is going on in this small town, and that she'll have to fight with everything she has to survive.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY LEWIS J

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel



The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich

By Deya Muniz

In order to avoid marriage, Lady Camembert disguises herself as a man and moves to the city. There she begins falling for the fashionable and kind Princess Brie. But will their relationship last once Brie discovers who "Count" Camembert really is?

TEEN GRAPHIC PRINCESS AND THE

The Secret Summer Promise

By Keah Brown

Andrea has plans for the perfect summer after spending the last year recovering from surgery for cerebral palsy. The only potential problem is her ongoing crush on her BFF, which Andrea is convinced is unrequited.

TEEN FICTION BROWN K

The Wicked Bargain

By Gabe Cole Novoa

On Mar's 16th birdhday, el Diablo comes to collect on a deal made with Mar's father, taking his soul along with his crew. Determined to save their family, Mar must ally with unlikely people and learn to trust their own magic.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY NOVOA G

Wren Martin Ruins It All

By Amanda DeWitt

When asexual teen Wren takes over as student council president, he is determined to cancel the Valentine's Day Dance. Instead, he ends up helping the frustratingly charming vice president organize a revamped version of the dance.

TEEN FICTION DEWITT A

You Don't Have a Shot

By Racquel Marie

After an outburst threatens her spot on the high school soccer team, Vale can't wait to escape to soccer camp. When she arrives, however, she's livid to find that her rival has also signed up for camp... and will be co-captaining a team with Vale.

TEEN FICTION MARIE R

You're Not Supposed to Die Tonight

By Kalynn Bayron

Charity's dream job acting as the final girl in a slasher experience turns into a nightmare when a real-life murderer shows up.

TEEN FICTION BAYRON K

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

EXPRESSIONS

Freedom House

By KB Brookins

Brookins uses poetry as a tool for liberation, envisioning a world where Black, queer, and trans individuals thrive. This collection delves into the essence of freedom, learning from nature and history, and embracing queerness in a resistant world.

PS3611.B37 F74 2023

I Am Only a Foreigner Because You Do Not Understand

By L. Nichols

Nichols describes growing up trans in the rural South. The author uses comics to document their further transition after *Flocks*, from living as a man to walking the middle path facing depression, disease, divorce, and death.

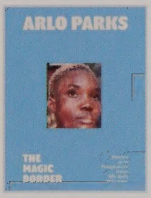
GRAPHIC PN6727.N488 I35 2023

Indigiqueerness: A Conversation about Storytelling

By Joshua Whitehead

Blending dialogue, collage, and memoir, this artistic journey explores Indigenous language, queerness, and fantasy. A vibrant tribute to Indigenous creators who defy and transcend genres.

PR9199.4.W4745 Z46 2023

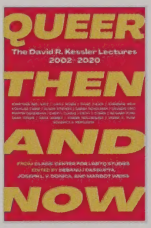


The Magic Border: Poetry and Fragments from My Soft Machine

By Arlo Parks

In her debut poetry collection, Parks includes original poems alongside photographs by friend and collaborator Daniyel Lowden, and the complete lyrics to her critically lauded album *My Soft Machine*.

PN1031.P345 2023



Queer Then and Now: The David R. Kessler Lectures, 2002-2020

Edited by Debanuj Dasgupta, Joseph L. V. Donica, and Margot Weiss

This rich collection features talks, reflections, and roundtables from influential queer and trans figures, delving into the evolution of queer studies and offering profound insights on the past, present, and future of the queer experience.

HQ73 .Q376 2023

Sacred Spells: Collected Works

By Assotto Saint

The collected life-work of an interdisciplinary writer, performer, and central figure in the Black Gay cultural arts and AIDS movements.

PS3569.A379 S6 2023

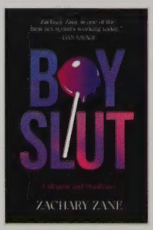
The Wild Hunt Divinations: A Grimoire

By Trevor Ketner

Ketner alters Shakespeare's 154 sonnets line-by-line through the thematic lens of transness, queer desire, kink, and British paganism.

PS3611.E895 W55 2023

MEMOIR

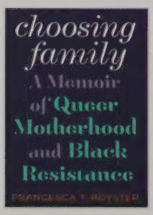


Boyslut: A Memoir and Manifesto

By Zachary Zane

From the sex and relationship columnist for *Men's Health* comes a series of essays that recount his coming out as a bisexual man and his journey toward celebrating sex unencumbered by shame.

BIOG HQ74.73.Z364 A3 2023



Choosing Family: A Memoir of Queer Motherhood and Black Resistance

By Francesca T. Royster

Royster, a professor of English literature, presents a memoir of family, identity, and acceptance that examines the messiness and complexity of adoption and parenthood from a Black, queer, and feminist perspective.

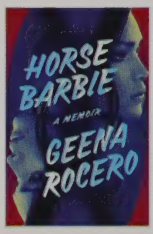
BIOG HQ75.53 .R69 2023x

Hijab Butch Blues: A Memoir

By Lamya H.

A queer Muslim immigrant recalls her coming of age and how she drew inspiration from the stories in the Quran throughout her lifetime search for safety and belonging.

BIOG HQ75.4.H15 A3 2023

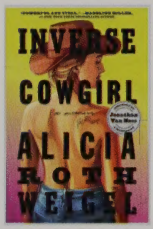


Horse Barbie: A Memoir of Reclamation

By Geena Rocero

The memoir of a trans pageant queen from the Philippines who went back into the closet to model in New York City and later found self-acceptance by embracing her true self.

BIOG HQ77.8.R65 A3 2023



Inverse Cowgirl: A Memoir

By Alicia Roth Weigel

In this collection of essays, a celebrated activist born intersex with both female and male reproductive organs fights back against hate and fear-mongering to protect the rights and lives of everyone.

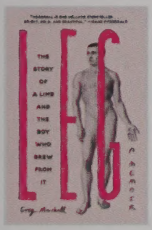
BIOG HQ78 .W454 2023

Leading Lady: A Memoir of a Most Unusual Boy

By Charles Busch

Playwright, drag actor, director, and cabaret performer Busch shares his extraordinary journey into the worlds of Off-Broadway, Broadway, and Hollywood and his colorful and sometimes outlandish interactions with film and theatrical luminaries.

BIOG PS3552.U813 Z46 2023

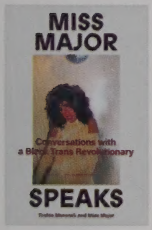


Leg: The Story of a Limb and the Boy Who Grew from It

By Greg Marshall

Marshall shares outrageous stories of a singular childhood and his coming out of two closets — as a gay man and as a man living with cerebral palsy — examining what it means to transform when there are parts of yourself you can't change.

BIOG HQ75.8.M327 A3 2023



Miss Major Speaks: Conversations With a Black Trans Revolutionary

By Toshio Meronek & Miss Major Griffin-Gracy

This is both a document of Miss Major's brilliant life and a roadmap for the challenges Black, Brown, queer, and trans youth will face on the path to liberation today.

BIOG HQ77.8.M35 M47 2023

Pageboy: A Memoir

By Elliot Page

Page, an Oscar-nominated star, reveals how his career turned into a nightmare as he navigated criticism and abuse in Hollywood until he'd had enough and stepped into who he truly is with defiance, strength, and joy.

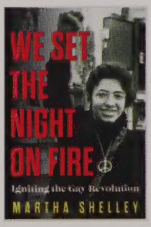
BIOG PN2308.P34 A3 2023

A Place for Us: A Memoir

By Brandon J. Wolf

A survivor of the 2016 terror attack at Pulse nightclub in Orlando presents a coming-of-age memoir about his childhood in a racist and homophobic rural Oregon community and his emergence as a galvanizing LGBTQ+ activist.

BIOG PN2308.P34 A3 2023



We Set the Night on Fire: Igniting the Gay Revolution

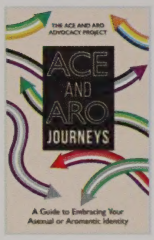
By Martha Shelley

The daughter of Jewish refugees and undocumented immigrants in New York City, Shelley became a speaker for the Daughters of Bilitis, organized the first gay march in response to the Stonewall Riots of 1969, and co-founded the Gay Liberation Front.

BIOG HQ75.4.S54 A3 2023

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

NONFICTION

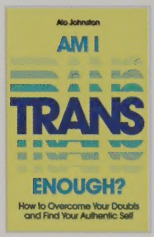


Ace and Aro Journeys: A Guide to Embracing Your Asexual or Aromantic Identity

By The Ace and Aro Advocacy Project

Dive deeply into the process of discovering and embracing your ace and aro identities. Find and develop support networks, explore different kinds of partnership, come out to your communities, and find real joy within.

HQ21 .A27 2023

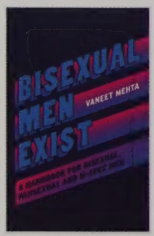


Am I Trans Enough?: How to Overcome Your Doubts and Find Your Authentic Self

By Alo Johnston

Challenge your internalized transphobia and learn to embrace yourself, with words of wisdom and personal testimony from trans people from around the globe.

HQ77.9 .J635 2023



Bisexual Men Exist: A Handbook for Bisexual, Pansexual and M-spec Men

By Vaneet Mehta

Navigating a range of topics, including coming out, dating, relationships, and health, Vaneet shares his own experience as well as personal stories from others in the community to help validate and uplift other bisexual men.

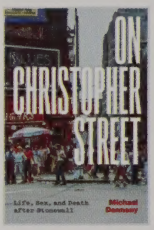
HQ76.26 .S43 2023x

Gender is Really Strange

By Teddy G. Goetz & Illustrated by Sophie Standing

Gender is self-understood and influenced by society, culture, and personal experiences. Sex, in contrast, is a biological term. Neither is binary. This graphic medicine comic is a unique exploration into the intersection of gender identity and sex.

GRAPHIC HQ18.55 .G64 2024



On Christopher Street: Life, Sex, and Death After Stonewall

By Michael Denneny

As a founder and editor of *Christopher Street* and then as the first openly gay editor at a mainstream publishing house, Denneny shaped publishing around gay subjects in the 1970s and '80s. This assemblage of writings illuminates the period.

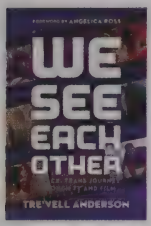
HQ76.2.U5 D46 2023

The Pride Atlas: 500 Iconic Destinations for Queer Travelers

By Maartje Hensen

This colorful catalog offers information on the best Pride parades, nightlife hotspots, LGBTQ+ memorials, and queer-owned businesses all around the world — as well as the scoop on alluring natural escapes where LGBTQ+ visitors can unwind among friends.

HQ75.25 .H467 2023



We See Each Other: A Black, Trans Journey Through TV and Film

By Tre'vell Anderson

In this groundbreaking look at transgender representation in TV and film, Anderson weaves together the history of trans people on screen with stories of their own life growing up and their formative experiences as a Black, trans journalist.

PN1995.9.T684 A53 2023

Who Does That Bitch Think She Is?: Doris Fish and the Rise of Drag

By Craig Seligman

In the 1970s, Doris Fish rose to drag queen stardom amid public fear and hatred. He was a leader of the generation that prepared the world not just for drag queens but for a society more accepting of LGBTQ+ people. How did we get from there to here?

HQ76.98.F57 S45 2023

FICTION

Boys Weekend

By Mattie Lubchansky

Part satire, part horror, this graphic novel about a bachelor party gone very wrong explores what it's like to exist as a transfemme person in a man's world, the difficulty of maintaining friendships through transition, and the more cult-like effects of masculinity, "hustle" culture, and capitalism.

GRAPHIC BOYS WEEKEND

Chlorine

By Jade Song

A debut novel that blurs the line between a literary coming-of-age narrative and a dark unsettling horror tale, told from an adult perspective, on the trials and tribulations of growing up in a society that puts pressure on young women and their bodies.

FICTION SONG J

The Chromatic Fantasy

By H.A.

In this graphic novel, reminiscent of stained glass and illuminated manuscripts, Jules, a trans man trapped as a nun, allows the devil to possess him so he can escape the convent. As a criminal, he falls for Casper, another trans man and a thief.

GRAPHIC CHROMATI FANTASY

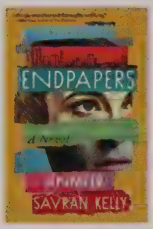
The Daughters of Izdihar

By Hadeer Elsbai

In an alternate world inspired by Egyptian history, Nehal, a waterweaver forced into marriage, forges an unlikely bond with Giorgina, the earthweaver her new husband is in love with, as the two women fight to break out of their social constraints.

SCIFI FANTASY ELSBAI H

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel



Endpapers

By Jennifer Savran Kelly

In 2003 New York City, a genderqueer book conservator feels trapped by her gender presentation, her relationship, and her artistic block — until she discovers a decades-old hidden queer love letter and becomes obsessed with finding its author.

FICTION KELLY J

Idlewild

By James Frankie Thomas

A darkly funny story of two adults looking back on their intense teenage friendship, in a queer, trans, and early-Internet twist on the Manhattan prep school novel.

FICTION THOMAS J

Mimosa

By Archie Bongiovanni

In this graphic novel, a chosen family of four best friends work to navigate their own lives and friendships, proving that being messy doesn't always go away with age.

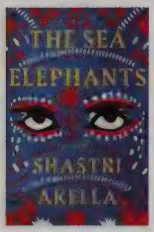
GRAPHIC MIMOSA

Pomegranate

By Helen Elaine Lee

Follow a queer Black recovering addict recently out of prison in Boston as she fights to stay clean and regain custody of her two children while her old life continues to beckon.

FICTION LEE H



The Sea Elephants

By Shastri Akella

A queer coming-of-age novel set in 1990s India, about a young man who joins a traveling street theater troupe, seeking to outrun the dark secrets of his past.

FICTION AKELLA S

The Stones Stay Silent

By Danny Ride

When a plague sweeps across the land, the priests of the Parents accuse the unmarried and unwomanly Leiander of being the cause. Fleeing, Lei travels with the Night Demon Kevv'ach to find the Great Lith, said to still channel the magic of the Parents, in hopes of becoming his true self.

This title is available as an eBook via Hoopla & Overdrive's Libby App

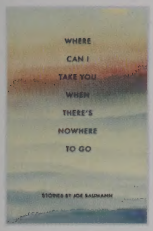
The Thick and the Lean

By Chana Porter

Beatrice has a secret love for cooking in a town that controls what people eat. Reiko is left adrift and in debt when her school eliminates her funding. Both make a choice to take hold of their lives with the guidance of a mysterious cookbook.

SCIFI FANTASY PORTER C

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel



Where Can I Take You When There's Nowhere To Go

By Joe Baumann

Centering on queer men as they explore their sense of who they are and what they want, these thirteen surreal short stories use the strange and the bizarre as a backdrop for explorations of loneliness, queer coming-of-age, self-discovery, and loss.

FICTION BAUMANN J

Your Driver Is Waiting

By Priya Guns

Damani, who drives for an app, starts dating a white girl with money. But when their romance intensifies and she finally lets her guard down, her girlfriend does something unforgivable, setting off an explosive chain of events.

FICTION GUNS P

ROMANCE

Can't Let Her Go

By Kianna Alexander

Peaches and Jamie, members of the same friend group, start falling for each other after a party. But between family obligations and new career ventures, do they have time for a relationship?

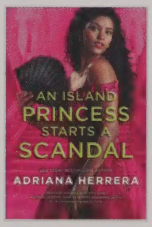
ROMANCE ALEXANDE K

The Color of Always: An LGBTQIA+ Love Anthology

Edited by Brent Fisher & Michele Abounader

A collection of comics about the everyday lives of queer and trans people from across the LGBTQIA+ spectrum.

GRAPHIC COLOR OF ALWAYS



An Island Princess Starts a Scanda

By Adriana Herrera

The summer before an arranged marriage, Carmen accepts an invitation to show her art in Paris, gaining the attention of a duchess who wants part of her land in exchange for an introduction to the city's queer scene.

FICTION HERRERA A

Love at 350°

By Lisa Peers

Prickly baking show judge Kendra is just trying to save her restaurant, but she quickly gains feelings for Tori, a sunshiny teacher who's newly an empty nester.

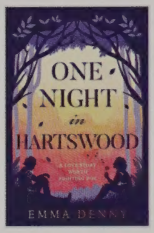
ROMANCE PEERS L

New Adult

By Timothy Janovsky

When Nolan wakes up 7 years in the future as a successful comedian with no friends or family, the only way to get his old life back is by finding his former best friend and crush... who now deeply hates him.

ROMANCE JANOVSKY T



One Night in Hartswood

By Emma Denny

In 1360 England, Penn runs away the night before his arranged marriage. His fiancée's brother sets out to find him, not realizing that the handsome stranger he's helping through the forest is the man he's looking for.

ROMANCE DENNY E

Second Chances in New Port Stephen

By TJ Alexander

Trans TV writer Eli visits his quirky Florida hometown for the holidays and reconnects with his ex, now a divorced single dad.

ROMANCE ALEXANDE T

Sorry, Bro

By Taleen Voskuni

Nar's mom convinces her to join a month-long series of events for Armenian Americans. But instead of falling for a family-approved male engineer or doctor, closeted bisexual Nar catches feelings for her wingwoman.

ROMANCE VOSKUNI T

They Ain't Proper

By M.B. Guel

Non-binary rancher Lou orders house plans but receives a mail-order wife instead. They'd rather Clementine leave them alone, but she's determined to get them to open up.

ROMANCE GUEL M

We Could Be So Good

By Cat Sebastian

Andy, the son of a newspaper tycoon, isn't interested in running the family business... until his friendship with a reporter starts turning into something more.

ROMANCE SEBASTIA C

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

WE ARE PRIDE

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